Problems of Tobacco producers

2018. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to severe drought condition in Karnataka, the Tobacco producers in the Sate are in great distress;

(b) if so, the details of the Central assistance provided to the affected farmers;

(c) whether it is a fact that with a view to providing some relief to the tobacco growers, the State Government has requested the Centre to accord approval for sale of entire tobacco produced in the State without imposing penalty on the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Flue Cured Virginia tobacco crop in 2003-04 compared favourably with the crop in 2002-03, in terms of both productivity and quality.

(c) and (d) Government of Karnataka has requested that the unregistered FCV tobacco growers be permitted to market their produce on payment of normal service charges. After a careful consideration of all relevant factors, the Government has levied a very nominal penalty of Rs. 1.50 per kilogram and one per cent of the sale proceeds on marketing of both excess and unauthorised FCV tobacco.

Export of fruits and vegetables

2019. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme with a view to encourage export of fruits and vegetables from various States is being implemented;

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earned by various States last year and the current year;

(c) whether Government are formulating a plan to motivate the fruit and vegetable growers of such States where off season fruits and vegetables can be grown at large scale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Under a scheme of the Government called 'Assistance to State Government for Development of Infrastructure for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE)' assistance is provided to the State Governments for creating appropriate infrastructure for the development and growth of export. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides financial assistance to exporters under various schemes for Market Development, Research & Development, Infrastructure Development Quality Development and Transport Assistance. In addition to financial assistance, APEDA also undertakes market promotion in a number of countries for encouraging export of fruits and vegetables.

(b) State-wise commodity-wise export data is not presently maintained. Total value of export of fresh fruits and fresh vegetabls during the last year (2002-2003) and the current year (April-August) is Rs. 1050.44 crores and Rs. 504.80 crores respectively. (Source: DGCI&S)

(c) and (d) Government of India has introduced Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) for increasing investment in agriculture sector to boost production and exports. AEZs are based on convergence of different schemes and fill up gaps in investments at each stage of the value chain.

Foreign exchange earning

2020. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major, medium, and small-scale industries funtioning at present in the different states, State-wise;

(b) the details of the foreign exchange earned in the Indian Currency by these industries during the last three years;

(c) the details of such industries closed down due to sickness so far during 2002-2003 and the current year till date; State-wise; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government to revive them in the national interest?